

OSPI AUTISM TASK FORCE

February, 1998 - February, 1999

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OSPI AUTISM TASK FORCE

PURPOSE:

To make recommendations as to how the state agencies can continuously improve support to school districts and early intervention programs in their delivery of services to children and youth with autism spectrum disorders.



TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

- Parents
- Families for Early Autism Treatment
- Autism Society of Washington
- State Agencies
- School District Special Ed. Directors
- ESD Special Education Directors
- Migrant/Farm Workers



TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP (cont.)

- Institutions of Higher Education
- Early Intervention Programs
- Severe Behavioral Disabilities Task Force Liaison
- Legislative Representative
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Medicaid Representative



INTERESTED PARTIES

- Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
- King County Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Insurance Commissioner's Office
- Additional parents, ESD and school district personnel



PROCESS

- Met in February, May, August, November, 1998 and February, 1999
- Needs identified
- Work Groups
 - Identification/Transition
 - Resource System/Coordination
 - Funding and Delivery
- Research review and presentations
- Recommendations were made to OSPI



ASSUMPTIONS

- Children are increasingly being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.
- Autism is a complex and often misunderstood disability.
- Families must work with many different agencies in order to receive the support they need.
- The number of children/youth with autism served by school districts is increasing.



ASSUMPTIONS (cont.)

- School administrators and staff are increasingly requesting training on strategies to work with children/youth with autism spectrum disorders.
- Support to children and families can be achieved through coordination of existing resources (education, health, social services, managed care and mental health).



IDENTIFIED ISSUES/NEEDS

- Need for well trained staff;
- Coordination of existing training efforts;
- Need for availability of a variety of programs to serve the individual needs of children/youth; and
- Coordination of efforts to maximize use of available resources to support school districts, early intervention programs, and families.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establishment of a single point of contact for information and state resources accessible to families, school district personnel and other state and local agencies;
- Exploration of an outreach system for training and technical assistance to school districts;



RECOMMENDATIONS (cont.)

- Coordination of state, regional, and local training opportunities and resources; and
- Collaboration between state and local agencies to use resources effectively and efficiently.



AUTISM OUTREACH PROJECT

REQUIREMENTS:

- Parent and Education Coordinators
- Training and Technical Assistance Clearinghouse
 - Link to state, regional and local training
 - Assess families and school personnel training needs
 - Provide training and technical assistance based on assessment



AUTISM OUTREACH PROJECT (cont.)

- Resource Library
- Demographic Data Collection
- Build Capacity



CONTACT INFORMATION

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